

BURUNDI

Leopold BIHUMUGANI

Personal secretary to Mwami (King) Mwambutsa IV

OFFICE OF  
CENTRAL REFERENCE

(b) (1)  
(b) (3)



BIOGRAPHIC  
REGISTER

A cousin, close friend and confidant of Mwami (King) Mwambutsa IV, Leopold "Biha", Bihumugani was named personal secretary to the Mwami just prior to the resignation of the Government of Prime Minister Pierre Ngendandumwe (April 1964). In this post he ranks in importance with the grand marshal of the royal court and the Mwami's chef de cabinet. Prior to 1958, when the traditional system of tribal chiefs was abolished, he acted as Regent during the Mwami's absence from the country.

[REDACTED] Widely respected, Bihumugani is characterized by an independent mind and is reportedly a hard worker. [REDACTED]

Bihumugani was a co-founder of the U.R.O.N.A. He left the party in 1961, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He formed his own political party, Burundi Populaire (BP), in August 1961. The following month, however, the BP was defeated in elections and Bihumugani went into political eclipse. In January 1962 he was placed under house arrest by then Prime Minister Andre Muhirwa, [REDACTED] He remained under house arrest until at least January 1963 and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He is scheduled to visit the US in May 1964 as part of the Mwami's entourage.

A Tutsi, Bihumugani was born in 1919 at Muramvya, Burundi. He attended the Groupe Scolaire in Astrida. From 1940 to 1943 he was secretary of the Muramvya chefferie, becoming chief about the latter year and continuing in that post until 1958. While in this position he abolished the traditional system of servility in his chefferie and

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Leopold BIHUMUGANI (cont.)

instituted a system of social centers to instruct women in home economics. After 1958 he served as a member of the Conseil Supérieur du Burundi and as commissioner of finance. In January 1961 he was appointed Minister of Finance in the Provisional Government.

Bihumugani has visited Europe several times and in November and December 1960 was a delegate to the UNESCO general conference held in Paris.

As of 1962 he was married and had several children. Bihumugani is a Roman Catholic,

He speaks excellent French and some English and Swahili.

PA:tms

4 May 1964

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